

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01585 131846Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 /067 W

-----131851Z 017702 /41

O 131812Z ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 5183
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
REGUCIGALAPA
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1585

REF: GUATEMALA 1584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT, US

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

1. WHEN I SAW OFF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON SUNDAY MORNING, I TOLD HIM I HAD BEEN SORRY TO SEE HIS GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN THEIR NOTE OF FRIDAY, AND ASKED IF THEY PLANNED TO PUBLISH THE TEXT. NOTHING THAT HE WOULD BE AWAY FOR THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS, HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD RELEASE THE TEXT UNLESS OUR STATEMENT ON GUATEMALA WERE PUBLISHED. IF THIS HAPPENED, THEY WOULD BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM THE PRESS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01585 131846Z

RESPOND BY RELEASING THEIR NOTE. I NOTED THAT, AS HE KNEW FROM PAST CONVERSTATIONS, THERE WAS A STRONG AND INCREASING INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS BOTH IN OUR CONGRESS AND IN OUR ADMINISTRATITN. HE SAID HE REALIZED THIS AND APPRECIATED THAT OUR MOTIVES IN ALL THIS WERE NOBLE; NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THEY HAD HAD NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO

RESPOND AS THEY HAD IN THEIR NOTE AND TO STAND BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR ANY GOVERNMENT TO PASS JADGMENT ON GUATEMALA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH MULTI-LATERAL AND NOT UNILATERAL CHANNELS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY WARM AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT OUR CONVERSTATION, TREATING THE ISSUE ESSENTIALLY AS AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN TWO GOOD FRIENDS. HE REPEATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR FACT THAT SECRETARY WAS TAKING TIME SO SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE TO RECEIVE HIM

3. AS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 13, GOG HAS NOT GIVEN ANY CLEAR INDICATION TO PUBLIC THAT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA EXISTS OR HAS BEN RECEIVED. HOWEVER, ONE OF SMALLEST PAPERS, LA HORA, AFTERNOON MARCH 12 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA WHICH IS SIMILAR TO BRIEF INTERVIEW SHOWN ON TV NEWS PROGRAM EVENING MARCH 11. MOLINA IS QUOTED AS REFERRING TO UNSPECIFIED STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED FOR A LONG TIME" IN GUATEMALA (NOT AN ACCURATE QUOTE FROM DEPARTMENT'S REPORT) AND LABELLING THAT ASSERTION AS "A GRAVE NORTH AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN INTERANAL AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA." MOLINA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA ARE EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE OF GOG AND "THEREFORE NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE US."

4. HOWEVER, LA HORA SAYS FONMIN "ADMITTED THAT IN GUATEMALA CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 01585 131846Z

FOR MANY YEARS A CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE HAS REIGNED WHICH HAS PRODUCED LOSS OF LIFE, THROUGH KIDNAPPINGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE; BUT, HE EMPHASIZED, THESE ARE ACTS OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF AUTHORITIES AND OF GOVERNMENT. ONE MUST BE CLEAR, HE ADDED, THAT THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE OCCUR NOT ONLY IN OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.... EVEN IN US, ACTS OF VIOLENCE OCCUR CONTINUALLY; FOR EXAMPLE, WE CAN SEE THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THIS MORNING (REFERENCE TO BLACK MUSLIM INCIDENT IN WASHINGTON); THE SAME THING HAPPENS IN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES."

5. APPARENTLY ASKED LA HORA'S REPORTER WHETHER CHAREGES AGAINST GUATEMALA ORIGINATED WITH EMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, FONMIN IS QUATED AS SAYING AI "IS AN EXCEEDINGLY SUSPICIOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH FOR SOME TIME HAS UNDETKEN TO MAKE CHARES AT RANDOM AGAINST ANY COUNTRY. PARADOXICALLY....THIS ORGANIZATION....

HAS NEVER GIVEN ITSELF TO THE TASKS OF DENOUNCING VIOLATIONS
WHICH EXIST IN ENGLAND, ESPECIALLY IN IRELAND, IN SPITE OF
THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE BRITISH....AI IS A FRONT
ORGANIZATION WITH SELECTIVE CRITERIA FOR ITS ATTACKS
ON SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES MOTIVATED BY
WHO KNOWS WHAT WICKED INTERESTS."
BOSTER

GDS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM01585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770086-0692
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703108/aaaafszp.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 691828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GUATEMALA 1584
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2957409
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970902
Subject: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, GT, US
To: STATE INFO BELIZE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/691828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009